

Child Labor and Awareness of Violations

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Hi, I'm Autumn Bierce! I'm here with Sananda and Savarie and we're here to speak to you about an important issue in the world today. Before we start our actual presentation, we'd like to start off by a couple of stories about this issue.

(Savarie tells story about Alejandra)

(Sananda tells story about Rebecca)

(Autumn tells story about Tanka)

Slide 1: (Slide going along with the story)

Slide 2: (Title slide)

Slide 3: In certain countries, people recruit children to work for them, but this work is considered illegal in most countries because the work isn't suitable for the children. It can harm the child physically, emotionally, and socially and deprive him of his education. They can get beaten as punishments. Depending on the job, the environment could harm the child's health. For example, the carpet factories contain a lot of dust which can affect the child's developing lungs. These small children feel that they've been given up because their parents have sold them into this. They don't have time to play with other children. In

some cases, the smell of the children who are in the labor force may cause other children to not want to socialize with them.

Slide 4: When you think about child labor, you might think about the children working in factories during the Industrial Revolution. What you might not have known is that there 168 million hopeless children in child labor as we speak. 30 percent of the children in the least developed countries are in child labor. (Read off the list of countries on the powerpoint)

Slide 5: Poverty is a major component to child labor because children must work to support their families, especially in poor countries. Their parents may be unemployed or have a job that brings home insufficient funds. In third world countries, some children cannot get a proper education, so they end up working instead. Children find it easier to labor instead of taking the time to go to school and get a proper education. There are laws against child labor in every country, but these laws are often ignored because the law enforcement isn't strong enough or is often bribed by business owners.

Slide 6: Health is also a major issue. Children are still growing so children have rapid skeletal growth, development of organs and tissues, greater risk of hearing loss, greater need of food and rest, higher chemical absorption rates, smaller size, and a lower heat tolerance. This makes them more vulnerable to diseases and harm.

Slide 7: Take a look at this list. Raise your hand if you've shopped at one of these stores in the past week. When you were buying items from these stores, did you ever even begin to imagine the impact you were having on children?

Slide 8: Take a look at this picture. This portrays how a child all the way across the world is making your expensive shoes, but they have no shoes for themselves.

Slide 9: (show picture)

Slide 10: (Read off of slide)

Slide 11: According to the Declaration of Human Rights, child labor is illegal in every country, but this doesn't mean this isn't happening. Eleanor Roosevelt contributed a great amount to reducing child labor. She helped pass acts in the United States that made child labor illegal. For example, she worked to pass the Fair Labor Standards Act in the United States. The Fair Labor Standards Act was passed in 1938 and it introduced a maximum 44-hour seven day work week, established a national minimum wage, and also prohibited most employment of children in an oppressive labor force. In addition, she served as chairman of the drafting committee for the International Declaration of Human Rights.

Slide 12: 5 articles from the International Declaration of Human Rights are directly being broken in countries using child labor. Article 3: Everyone has the right to life, liberty, and security of a person. In many situations, children are being held against their will and being held in forceful servitude. For example, these children feel that life is a long tunnel without an end to it. They're security is being snatched from them since they may be sold to prostitution and other harmful businesses. Unfortunately, they don't even get the time to be children. They never have time to play, have fun, laugh, or even have friends.

Slide 13: Article 4 states that no one shall be held in slavery or servitude. Child labor can come in forms of slavery because they never receive the proper pay for the work that they do. Children get beaten for doing one single thing wrong.

Slide 14: Article 5- No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment. Like Savarie mentioned, the children get beaten every time they mess up or do something wrong. Their masters beat them so hard that some children come home with bruises all of their body, caked in blood, and tears running down their face. They return to their homes with broken bones.

Slide 15: Article 25 states that everyone has the right to rest and leisure, including reasonable limitation of working hours and periodic holidays with pay. Most child laborers wake up early in the morning and come home near their dinner time. By that time, they are so tired and worn down that they don't have any time to themselves to enjoy.

Slide 16: (Read off of slide)

Slide 17: Just like Eleanor Roosevelt, you can make a difference. By telling even one other person about child labor, you'll be increasing awareness.

Just think about this. If you were born in another country where child labor rates were high, you could've been one of the child laborers we talked about.

Thank you for being such a great audience and we hope you enjoy the rest of your day!